

Jeremiah 50:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitation desolate with them.

Analysis

Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon, **לֹכֶן שָׁמְעוּ אֶצֶת יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר יְעַצֵּם אֶל-בָּבֶל**)—Repeats 49:20 with Babylon substituted for Edom. The divine atzah (counsel) against Babylon is irrevocable. **And his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans**, **מִחְשָׁבּוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר חָשַׁבְתָּם אֶל-אֶרֶץ פְּשָׁדִים**)—God's 'thoughts/plans' are effective decrees, not tentative ideas.

Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out (**אִם-לֹא יִשְׁחַבּוּם צָעִירִי הַצָּאן**)—Even the weakest soldiers will drag away Babylon's mighty. This humiliating reversal emphasizes God's power: He needs no elite troops to topple superpowers. **Surely he shall make their habitation desolate with them**—Babylon's dwelling places become ruins. The repetition from chapter 49 demonstrates the universality of God's judicial principles: the same laws govern all nations. Pride brings downfall; oppression invites judgment; idolatry ensures destruction.

Historical Context

Cyrus's conquest was relatively easy—Babylon fell without prolonged siege. The 'weakest' troops sufficed because God had decreed Babylon's end. The Nabonidus Chronicle confirms Babylon surrendered without major battle. God's 'counsel' trumps human military calculus.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the repetition of prophetic oracles across different nations teach about universal moral law?
2. How does the 'weakest of the flock' language deconstruct human pride in military strength?
3. In what ways do God's 'counsels' and 'purposes' differ from human planning and strategy?

Interlinear Text

לְכָא שְׁמֻעָה שְׁעֵצָת יְהִי הָאָשָׁר יְעָצֵם
Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD that he hath taken

H3651 H8085 H6098 H3068 H834 H3289

אֶל בְּבָבָל וּמִחְשָׁבּוֹת יְהָשָׁר וְשִׁבְעָה אֶל
against Babylon and his purposes that he hath purposed

H413 H894 H4284 H834 H2803 H413

אֶל רָצֶן מִשְׁדָּךְ יְמִינָה לֹא אָמַר יְסַבְּבוּם אֲשֶׁר
against the land of the Chaldeans shall draw them out Surely the least

H776 H3778 H518 H3808 H5498 H6810

בְּנֵיהֶם עָלֵיכֶם יְשִׁיבָה לֹא אָמַר הַצָּאן
surely he shall make their habitation of the flock

H6629 H518 H3808 H8074 H5921 H5116

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 49:20 (References Lord): Therefore hear the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them.

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